



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Cameroon

Radio Reports Embassy in Libreville Burned

AB2105205091 Yaounde CRTC Radio Network
in English 1800 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Cameroonian demonstrators in Libreville have set the embassy building there on fire. Eyewitness accounts say the demonstrators, hostile to the government of President Biya, ransacked the embassy premises as officials were hosting a reception to celebrate the May 20 national day yesterday.

Meanwhile, back in the country, celebrations to mark May 20 were observed across the nation amid pomp in some provinces and silent protests in others. The head of state personally presided over a military and civilian march in Yaounde attended, among others, by leaders of the two new opposition parties, the Cameroonian Democratic Party and the People's Solidarity Party.

Elsewhere in the country, there were reports of low-key celebrations as a result of a boycott of the event jointly called by the opposition parties. Reports from some parts of the country, especially Limbe, Bamenda, and Douala, speak of sit-in strikes by taxi drivers, which were continuing today. Some shops and offices have failed to open.

Central African Republic

Kolingba Discusses Strikes, Violence, Democracy

AB1905082691 Bangui Radiodiffusion-Television
Centrafricaine Radio in French 1800 GMT 18 May 91

["Full address" of President Andre Kolingba to nation on 18 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Central African Republic Citizens, for some weeks now, we have embarked on a number of political reforms which you told me you desired; you also expressed to me the deep reasons for this desire. [passage omitted] Long before [word indistinct] came to the forefront, and in the interests of the well-being of Central African households, I myself underlined the concern about the problems with the purchasing power of Central Africans and the (?search for) the ways and means of making (?funds) available.

The Central African state is so dependent on foreign aid for its budget and its public investment. Why will it not definitively settle the full salaries and salary arrears? This situation demonstrates the cruel insufficiency of national (?savings). We also intend to mobilize our internal resources and devote them to the payment of salaries and the financing of investments. To do that, we must work and produce more. If revenues do not come in, if customs and excise earnings are in shortfall, with what resources shall we tackle even recent salaries and the traditional problem of salaries? On this depends our very sovereignty. Dear compatriots, how can you be opposed to going back

to work? After all, foreign aid should only be a back-up to our own efforts. [passage omitted]

That is the very proof that political customs have really changed and that respect for human rights is henceforth part of the political landscape of our country. In this regard, we need not recall for the benefit of democrats or those who wish to become democrats that respect for work and the security of goods and people are part of human rights. Do the trade union leaders of this country think that by ruining our economy, as they are doing, by leaving public and private goods to be pillaged, that they are really contributing to the honor of labor and of the human person? If such acts were to be perpetuated, what economic partner, understanding though he may be; what financing organization, however generous it may be, will continue or will come to invest in a high-risk country?

We have the right, in the face of such acts that go against the trade union code of conduct, to refer this to the International Labor Organization so that at the international level, the behavior of Central African trade unionism will be known and appreciated for what it is. The minister of labor is to compile a document in this regard. The organized slowdown of economic and social activities can obviously do no good to anyone apart from those who are seeking to discredit the regime for political ends. The resumption of trade union activities and the reintroduction of parties to national life should have reinforced our gains and consolidated our march toward greater freedom.

Yet, the acts that are typical of high banditry that have been perpetrated in the last few days go contrary to the principles of the security of goods and people. This suggests that we are in the wrong school of democracy. It is, therefore, imperative to show proof of a minimum of rigor, high exigency, and a great trust in our administration. [passage omitted]

Among the first reasons for the demonstrations are salaries. This is a mere pretext for a rise in violence. Take heed. Nobody has a monopoly over violence. The hideous acts can turn against their own perpetrators. At a time when the principle of a multiparty political system has been adapted and sheds rays of hope on the future, this upsurge in violence is no longer justifiable, given that all sections of the nation are going to express themselves freely. [passage omitted]

How does one explain that groups and associations, without waiting for a constitutional session, are just jumping into actions that lead to looting and assault and battery against people? A light security network was appropriately established to permit peaceful marches controlled by responsible people. Instead of that, we witnessed senseless acts of violence: serious destruction of property, wounds, and all kinds of maltreatment. That is a criminal comportment, a funereal warning that the government should take very seriously, to ensure that the

law is fully implemented: a strict application of the law and firm repression of acts contrary to the aims of the (community). [passage omitted]

I appeal to the lucidity and vigilance of the Central African people so that they will resist the flattering and deceptive music of modern-day sirens and that they will not again tolerate, in any case, that we revive the disturbances, the pains—in short, the tragedies of the past. For my part, I am determined to ensure that our country moves in serenity toward accomplishing a great national destiny. Long live the Republic!

Chad

Goukouni Briefs Journalists on Reasons for Return

LD2005091291 Paris International Service
in French 1830 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] A C-130 of the Algerian Air Force landed last night at Ndjamea Airport. On board was a surprising passenger: Goukouni Oueddei, who was making his first official visit to the Chadian capital after nine years in exile. It is well known that Goukouni Oueddei met Idriss Deby, the current Chadian head of state. What is not known, however, Gislaine Dupont, is what the two men said to each other.

[Dupont] Yes, in any case, as far as the authorities are concerned, there is radio silence; there is no one at the presidential palace to say how this meeting went, and what questions were raised. The former president did indeed give an interview to our colleagues of the Chadian press, but Goukouni Oueddei gave nothing away about the subject of the discussions. For example, about what he came to ask of Idriss Deby. The one thing that is known for certain is that this visit is not yet a definitive return home, but rather an exploratory mission. This is how Goukouni Oueddei's explanations are to be understood:

[Begin Goukouni recording] If I am here today after nine years in exile, it is not that I have come back like [words indistinct]. If it were a return home to my country in the proper way, I should have come by day, and not at midnight. I came to test the mood, to find out the feelings of my brothers who are here, especially those of President Idriss Deby, and to discover if he really is willing, as he says, as we are, to bring lasting peace to the Chadian people. If so, I am ready to make my contribution, to join in this, and to return, to come back publicly with all those who (?are waiting for me and follow me), and who are waiting from one moment to the next to return to their country, to share the good and the happiness with their own people. [end recording]

[Dupont] The message is clear: I am ready to make a contribution to Chad's future with my own supporters. Indeed, one can imagine that if the ex-president comes back, he will do so with a guarantee of being able to play a front-ranking role. The two men certainly discussed the

national conference and the opening up to a multiparty political system. The coordination of the opposition rallying around Goukouni Oueddei is demanding that this conference be held as soon as possible. So did the ex-head of the GUNT [Chadian Transitional National Union Government] make this demand during this meeting?

[Begin recording] [Goukouni] I did not fail to tell him that, whenever I was given the chance.

[Unidentified correspondent] How did he reply?

[Goukouni] I would rather you asked him the question directly.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, would you be tempted by the idea of ruling Chad again?

[Goukouni] I am not ... [changes thought] (?I must tell you that it is all over.) I have grown old. My hair is white. I am tired, worn out by war. (?In the end) I want to put my experience into practice for peace, for the future of the Chadian people. [end recording]

[Dupont] So is this first meeting in Ndjamea the first stage of the final return of Goukouni Oueddei? One thing is certain: this visit, after nine years in exile, is a good thing for the new Chadian president, who preaches national reconciliation. Idriss Deby is thus donning the mantle of the great unifier.

Presidency Spokesman on Oueddei Visit

LD2005164191 Paris Radio France International
in French 1230 GMT 20 May 91

[Interview with Presidency Press Director Mahamat Hissene by correspondent Gislaine Dupont on former President Goukouni Oueddei's visit to Chad; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Hissene] It will perhaps be an encouraging sign because the arrival here of Mr. Goukouni falls within the framework of the efforts made to get everyone to come, to prompt the contribution of all Chad tendencies to the progression of democracy in the country. The fact that he is still there means perhaps that he and President Deby still have things to say to one another.

[Dupont] That means that there will be a second meeting between Goukouni Oueddei and President Deby?

[Hissene] Quite possibly.

[Dupont] This afternoon?

[Hissene] I cannot say exactly when, but I believe that now they have time because the plane which brought Mr. Goukouni has left, so there is no urgency. It is not a question of hours.

[Dupont] One imagines, however, that if the former president wants to establish himself finally in Ndjamea

he will do it with the guarantee of being able to play a key role. Is this a possibility for the regime in Ndjamena today?

[Hissene] Honestly, one cannot say before the end of his talks with the president what it will be a question of, but the thing which is important for all Chadians is what each can contribute so that we now achieve a political system other than war.

[Dupont] Could one envisage members of Goukouni Oueddei's team joining the Chadian Government?

[Hissene] That would be indulging in supposition. One must await events.

Zaire

Multiparty Commission Begins Work 20 May

AB2005204291 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 20 May 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] After weeks of consultations, the multiparty commission preparing for Zaire's national conference got down to work today. The conference itself was due to begin late last month but was postponed, and one of the preparatory committee's first tasks will be to set a new date. Most of Zaire's 100 or more political parties have said they will attend, but some of the major ones are still standing aloof. In Kinshasa, Ofeibea Quist-Arcton went to see the leader of one such party Etienne Tshisekedi, to ask him why his UDPS [Union for Democracy and Social Progress] Party was refusing to take part in the national conference. On the line, she told Dan Isaacs about their conversation:

[Begin recording] [Quist-Arcton] When I spoke to Etienne Tshisekedi this morning, I told him the people are announcing that you are obstructing the course towards multiparty democracy and so on in Zaire. He said, not at all! We have made it quite clear that this national conference that President Mobutu is professing is not a proper one and that if Zairians want to have the wool pulled over their eyes, that is up to them. But we say that only within a sovereign conference can the truth come out and can Zaire really move on to a true and independence multiparty political future.

[Isaacs] Presumably, these opposition parties call rallies within Kinshasa. How popularly attended are the rallies?

[Quist-Arcton] Rallies have slightly fallen off at the moment because people are concerned with other things and waiting to see what this national conference will bring, although the UDPS of Etienne Tshisekedi was meant to have a march in Kinshasa yesterday, which they said was banned by the governor of the city. However, the MPR [Popular Movement for Renewal], which is President Mobutu's party, held a rally in the main stadium yesterday. Now, apparently, the capacity for the rally is 80,000, but there are probably even more people, perhaps 100,000 people there. And the information minister, who is also number two of the MPR party, when they showed him yesterday evening, said it was a wonderful turnout. It showed that there was still support for Mobutu. But when we were at the stadium, people were leaving and we said but why? Surely the rally had just started. But why did they come here to a rally to watch President Mobutu and his party members? We wanted our money. And they were referring to, apparently, a fraudulent swindle where they had been asked to put up whatever money they can for quick reward, for quick profit, and the repayment has stopped. So that seems to be their main concern.

[Isaacs] Where does President Mobutu himself stand in all this? Is he sitting back and watching or has he been really open and accessible to the Zairian people?

[Quist-Arcton] [Words indistinct]. The people of Kinshasa say, where is President Mobutu? He is the person who [word indistinct] all this suffering. He is the one who has called the national conference. He should be talking to us! So it seems that President Mobutu is keeping himself a little bit away from the fray, so to speak, although it was he who had sent in the security forces at certain demonstrations, and it seems that people have been killed even here in Kinshasa. It is the prime minister, Mulumba Lukoji, who is having to shoulder all the complaints, who is shouldering all the problems, and who is having to deal with the political unrest in the city. But he says he feels that he has the power and he feels that his government is moving in the right direction and that it is only dialogue and reconciliation—which he says this national conference represents—that will bring all Zairians together so that they can decide the political future of their country together and work towards multiparty democracy. [end recording]

Ethiopia

Premier Said Ready To Negotiate With Rebels

AB2105185091 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 21 May 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Excerpts] This morning, Ethiopia's President Mengistu Haile-Mariam stepped down as head of state and left the country. The speculation is that he has gone to Zimbabwe. The vice president, General Tesfaye Gebre-Kidan, is now in charge assisted by the newly appointed prime minister, Tesfaye Dinka. Journalist Thama Golan is in Addis Ababa and Robin White asked her how the news was broken to the Ethiopian people:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Well, it was during the lunch time news at midday in Amharic. There was a very short communique saying that at the request of various groups who felt that it was necessary for the country, President Mengistu has decided to leave his post and to leave his country, and the vice president will be now the acting president of the country. [passage omitted]

[White] Now I gather that the prime minister, Tesfaye Dinka, has been talking to diplomats. What has he been telling them?

[Golan] Well, all the foreign ambassadors stationed in Addis were called into (?this) briefing. He gave an official confirmation that the former president—or the deposed or the resigning president—has left the country. He said that everything in the country is functioning as normal. He said that the government has done the preparations for keeping law and order in Addis Ababa—he did not say in all of Ethiopia. He declared that this government is ready to enter in negotiations at any time, even before the London conference, with the rebel movement, and it is willing to discuss with them not only a cease-fire, but also the creation of a transitional government.

[White] I gather, meanwhile, that central Addis Ababa is already deserted this evening?

[Golan] Oh, yes, very early. The streets were empty as soon as sunset. And of course, the rumors that the rebels of the front are at the gates of Addis Ababa are not making the atmosphere any lighter. There is a feeling that everything can happen, for better or for worse. [end recording]

WPE, State Council Hold Emergency Session

LD2205102891 Addis Ababa Ethiopian Television
in English 1900 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] and the Council of

State had an urgent meeting in Addis Ababa this afternoon and made appropriate decisions on the need to establish a transitional government for restoring peace in the country.

Chaired by Comrade Lieutenant General Tesfaye Gebre-Kidan, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia and vice president of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the joint meeting of the State Council Secretariat dwelt at length on the immediate cessation of civil war in the country and the restoration of peace and the settlement of existing problems through democratic and peaceful means and full awareness of the desire of the people and the international community as a whole.

With a view to helping attain this objective, the joint meeting reiterated the government's preparedness to reach agreement on ending the armed conflict with opposition groups.

It was also stated the government is ready for the establishment without delay of a transitional government which will satisfy all parties so as to pave the way for a stable political order.

It was pointed out, moreover, that the government will attend the peace talks due to be held in London beginning 27 May 1991 under the intermediary of the United States Government.

In general, the necessary directives had been given to the organs concerned with the settlement of the aforementioned urgent and pressing questions.

The joint meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPE and the Council of State also called on the Armed Forces, police and security services, popular services, and urban [word indistinct] defense squads to fulfill their historic duty in full awareness of the responsibilities vested in them in ensuring the security of the nation and the people.

The joint meeting called on members of political bodies at various levels in the country and all workers, peasants, and others to rally behind the efforts being made for peaceful transition of the country. The joint meeting further urged the people to remain firm in their resolve to avert confusion and a state of anarchy in the country so that the day-to-day activities of government agencies, social services, and private organizations could continue unhampered.

EPLF Official Asserts Fight Will Continue

MB2105172791 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] President Mengistu's departure comes after a particularly intense period in Ethiopia's civil war. One of the longest-established rebel groups, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, EPLF, has just opened up a new front south of the provincial capital of Asmara as recently as the weekend. Both they and other rebel

groups were expected at peace talks with the government which were set for later this week in London. Elizabeth Ohene spoke to the EPLF London spokesman Yamane Kidan and asked him how the EPLF reacted to the news of Mengistu's departure.

[Begin recording] [Kidan] His successor, General Tesfaye Gebre-Kidan, is the same hardliner-military man. He has been his right hand man. He has occupied several senior military posts in the last 17 years. He is closely associated with the [words indistinct] policy of the regime. So, the change does not signal any shift of policy. One dictator has gone but we have another dictator as a replacement.

[Ohene] But, you have always said that there couldn't be peace for as long as Mengistu was around. Now, he has gone. Surely, you can give this one a chance?

[Kidan] We have always given peace a chance. We have a standing proposal. We have been calling for a referendum for the last 20 years. We have been dealing with the military regime in Ethiopia for more than 10 years, and, of course, we will be dealing with the successor regime. It is up to them to respond to our calls for a referendum.

[Ohene] But, from your perspective, the fighting continues?

[Kidan] The fighting will continue until and unless there is a reasonable response to our proposals which are flexible and very legitimate. [end recording]

EPLF Seizes Dek'emhare 'After Destroying' Army

EA2105183491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1500 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] The heroic Popular Army of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF], after destroying the Dergue army entrenched on the Dek'emhare [Eritrea Province] front and after scattering Dergue troops (?in the area), has liberated the town of Dek'emhare. Dek'emhare was liberated by our heroic Popular Army today at 1130.

In its attack on the Dek'emhare front, the EPLF Popular Army started besieging the 609 Corps the day before yesterday [19 May] at 1000. In this engagement, the Popular Army faced more than 6,000 army troops entrenched at the front including [words indistinct], the 10th, 18th, [words indistinct] Third Motorized Army Division, the Second Mechanized Army Division, the 16th Get Ready [tenkik] Brigade, the 29th Mechanized Brigade, and other supporting brigades and reinforcements. [passage indistinct]

Further Battle Victories Reported

EA2105182591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Tigray Revolution in Tigrinya to Ethiopia 1500 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] The heroic Popular Army of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] is

forging ahead victoriously by demolishing the Dergue troops entrenched on the Ambo front. [musical interlude] By devastating the Dergue army entrenched around Ambo, our heroic army, which liberated Ambo just yesterday, carried out an offensive and scored brilliant victories over the enemy.

In a decisive attack to destroy the fleeing Dergue soldiers moving out of Ambo, our heroic army besieged the Dergue army in a place called Ginch'i, which is between Addis Ababa and Ambo and 50 km from Ambo on the way to Addis Ababa, and scored a brilliant victory. In this engagement, only two tanks from among the Dergue artillery, BM's, and tanks managed to escape and the rest were captured or (?burned).

In another development, the heroic EPRDF Popular Army has liberated towns between Kembolcha and Tarmaber and other villages. The heroic EPRDF Popular Army in its Operation Walelign liberated the towns of Debre Sina, Kara Kore, Ataya, Shewa Robit, Kemise, and (Chira Meda). Apart from these towns, it has also liberated other small towns along the Kembolcha-Tarmaber road. All these towns were liberated when our army mobilized from Debre Sina and, with others coming from Kembolcha, yesterday morning advanced and met in Kemise town. In this engagement, the Dergue's 11th Army Division, which was entrenched on the Kembolcha-Tarmaber route, was completely devastated and annihilated. Reports reaching us from the front say that our people in the liberated towns were pleased to be liberated.

Rebels Claim Adis Alem 'Liberated'

EA2205105491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Ethiopian People for Peace, Democracy, and Freedom in Amharic 0400 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The heroic Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front's [EPRDF] army, forging ahead in its Ambo front campaign, has liberated Adis Alem. The heroic EPRDF's army, in its continuing decisive attack to destroy the remnants of the Tewodros Task Force, liberated the town of Adis Alem yesterday. Adis Alem town is 55 km from Addis Ababa.

During the attack launched on 20 May to destroy the Tewodros task force, 5,690 enemy soldiers were killed and wounded and 1,700 others captured. Among the dead were the commander of the Tewodros Task Force, Major General Mergasa Lilisa, and the deputy commander of the 3d Infantry Division. It has also been learned that other high-ranking officers were killed and captured.

During the continuous Ambo front attack, the enemy's 3d, 4th, and 204th Divisions were destroyed. Ten BM rocket launchers, 10 tanks, 13 cannons, three ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, 50 vehicles of various types, and many other things were seized, and 12 tanks were destroyed.

Rebel Radio: 27 Naval Officers Defect to Yemen*EA2105160491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 21 May 91*

[Text] Twenty-seven members of the Ethiopian naval force, after fleeing in a ship from Aseb, have arrived in Yemen. Those members of the Ethiopian naval forces, who have deserted the Dergue regime, arrived at Mukha Port on 18 May and asked the government for political asylum.

U.S. Role in Mengistu Resignation Viewed*MB2105185191 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 21 May 91*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] This morning, it was announced that Ethiopia's President Mengistu Haile-Mariam had stepped down as head of state and left the country. The national radio in Addis Ababa, which broke the news, said that Vice President General Tesfaye Gebre-Kidan was now in charge, assisted by the newly appointed Prime Minister Tesfaye Dinka. Journalist Thama Golan is in Addis Ababa and witnessed the events that led up to Mengistu's departure. On the line to Addis, Robin White asked her how his departure had been arranged.

[Begin recording] [Golan] Well, of course, there is a veil of secrecy but one could assume that if the Americans were not in the know of the thing, at least they encouraged the latest developments in Addis Ababa today. The Americans have realized that the rebels would not be talking to Mengistu—they refused—and they have, sort of, chosen three people whom they believe could be helping in the transition period. They are called here either the three Ts or the three Tesfayes or the triumvirate. These include the vice president who has now turned a head of state, Mr. Tesfaye Kidan. It includes the second Tesfaye, the prime minister, Tesfaye Dinka. The third one is the most powerful Minister of Interior Tesfaye Woldé-Selassie. It seems that there is a permanent contact between these three people and the Americans. We have just recently heard that the Americans have accepted to deliver a message from Mr. Tesfaye Dinka, the prime minister, to the rebels, asking them officially for a cease-fire.

[White] Now, do you know, for sure, where Mengistu is gone? There is a lot of speculation that he has gone to Zimbabwe.

[Golan] Yes, we think that he is trying at least to go to Zimbabwe, because, first of all, there have been, for a long time, rumors about him having bought the villa which belonged to Ian Smith in Zimbabwe. But the most interesting point is that yesterday, the last appearance of President Mengistu on television was when he received the special envoy of President Mugabe, the justice minister, Emmerson Munangagwa, who was seen delivering a message to Mengistu, and one might think that it was

during this—whatever the message contained—time when the details were worked out.

[White] So, you think that Mengistu left this morning with Emmerson Munangagwa?

[Golan] This is what many people think, but as I said, there are other rumors and it will take some time, but this seems to be most natural outlook, the one which has been supported by the Americans as a respectable solution and an exit for President Mengistu and so, making it possible for the peace talks in London to start on time, on the 27th of this month.

[White] Now, what is happening in Addis Ababa today? Are people jumping up and down in celebration or how they are receiving the news?

[Golan] Ah, this is the most striking thing. People are not showing any sign of jubilation. Most people are just going about their business as before. [end recording]

Mugabe Sends Mengistu 'Friendship' Message*EA2105161891 Addis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 20 May 91*

[Text] Comrade President Mengistu Haile-Mariam today received a message from the leader of the republic of Zimbabwe, President Robert Gabriel Mugabe. The content of the message from President Robert Mugabe to Comrade President Mengistu centered on bilateral relations and friendship between the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, as well as current issues in southern Africa in general and that of the Frontline States in particular.

In his message, President Robert Mugabe noted that in light of Zimbabwe's great esteem toward Ethiopia, it appreciates the recent peaceful resolution passed by the third extraordinary national Shengo [parliament] congress and is ready to give her support for its implementation.

In a ceremony held at the State Council, the message from the Zimbabwean leader was handed over to Comrade President Mengistu by the minister for justice, legal, and parliamentary affairs, Mr. Emmerson Munangagwa. After receiving the message, Comrade President Mengistu briefed the Zimbabwean minister on bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and on current regional and international situations.

EPLF Says Forces 33 Kilometers From Asmera*JN2205123691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 22 May 91*

[Text] Doha, 22 May (WAKH)—The Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] has said that it is now 33 kilometers away from the regional capital, Asmera, following fierce battles with the forces of the Ethiopian regime.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB published today, 'Uthman Muhammad 'Umar, member of the EPLF Executive Committee, said that EPLF forces have launched a large-scale offensive on the Tigray People's Liberation Front, during which six divisions of the Ethiopian Army were destroyed. He pointed out that the offensive is still continuing, and coincides with the fighting that is taking place on other fronts between Ethiopian and opposition forces.

'Umar added that Mengistu's relinquishment of power and escape will not affect our plans, and that the government must surrender, so that another government made up of Ethiopian opposition fronts can be set up.

Other sources told the newspaper that they expected the military and political situation in Ethiopia to escalate in the next few hours. The sources pointed out that the new president might find himself in a difficult situation if urgent, practical measures were not enforced to achieve internal reconciliation. They also noted that the new president should be more flexible than his predecessors in dealing with the Eritrean problem.

Somalia

SNM Reports New Name for North, Radio

EA2005230891 (Clandestine) Radio Somali Hargeysa in Somali 1630 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] The Somali National Movement [SNM] Central Committee meeting, which is still continuing in Burco, the capital of Togdheer Region, yesterday decided on the

name by which the new government born in the north of our country will be known. It was agreed that the new name will be the Republic of Somaliland [Jimhuriyada Soomaaliland]. The report adds that as of today, the North will be the Republic of Somaliland and at the same time Radio Somali will now be: This is Radio Hargeysa, the voice of the Republic of Somaliland.

Also, the latest reports of support and congratulations on the naming of the new Republic of Somaliland are coming from the districts of Saylac, Borama, Hargeysa, Laasqoray, and Rigavo, and the district of Laas Caanoodo.

USC Chairman Claims Groups Abusing USC Name

EA2105161291 Mogadishu Radio Mogadishu in Somali 1700 GMT 20 May 91

[Excerpt] Mr. Hussein Ali Shidow, the interim chairman of the United Somali Congress [USC], today made an inspection tour of the military hospital in Mogadishu, where he made an effort to find out about the condition of the patients in the hospital. [passage omitted]

Speaking about the general situation of the country, Mr. Hussein Ali Shidow said that the interim government is trying its best to strengthen security, to unify the nation, and to strengthen cooperation within the nation. He said without these factors, it would not be possible to build a durable peace. Mr. Hussein Ali Shidow told the officials and the patients he met that there are some groups who engage in illegal activities by using the name of the USC, adding that the interim government and the USC should deal with this matter urgently. [passage omitted]

De Klerk Proposes 'Metropolitan' Government

MB2105141091 Johannesburg South African Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1100 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] The state president, Mr. F.W. de Klerk, says that the greater metropolitan areas of Johannesburg, Durban, and Port Elizabeth, could be suitable for the introduction of a metropolitan system of government. Mr. de Klerk was speaking at opening of the 31st congress of the Institute of Town Clerks in Port Elizabeth.

He said that the government was in favor of the democratic dispensation based on power sharing, and that municipal service could be better coordinated through centralization. Mr. de Klerk said that a metropolitan government would simplify, and streamline present local government structures. However, consensus would have to be obtained from all corners of the community on the nature and structure of the metropolitan government.

Coetsee Criticizes Hunger Striking Prisoners

MB2205073491 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0700 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Justice minister, Kobie Coetsee, has accused hunger striking political prisoners of irresponsibility. Coetsee says the action of the hunger strikers is irresponsible. He says it's equally irresponsible for anyone to encourage or support the hunger strikers.

Coetsee says in the cases of five hunger strikers presently being treated at Somerset Hospital in Cape Town, all had been jailed for offenses relating to murder. But, says Coetsee, their cases are under review. He says four of the prisoners will be considered by the consulting body between 11 June and 15 June. Coetsee says the case of the fifth prisoner had been considered on Tuesday, and a decision regarding his application for release is expected soon. Coetsee says, therefore, it's completely irresponsible for the prisoners to remain on hunger strike.

ANC Leadership Begins 24-Hour Hunger Strike

MB2105190491 Johannesburg South African Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1845 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] The leadership of the ANC [African National Congress] has begun a 24-hour hunger strike to put pressure on the government for the release of political prisoners, and according to news agencies, Mr. Nelson Mandela has threatened to launch mass action if it should fail.

Mr. Mandela told a news conference in Johannesburg that the ANC was embarking on this action because it had not achieved any results from discussion and persuasion. He said that talks with the minister of justice,

Mr. Kobie Coetsee, were continuing and that Archbishop Desmond Tutu was going to have talks with President F. W. de Klerk on Thursday [23 May].

Mandela on Banning of Traditional Weapons

MB2105183991 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 21 May 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" Program]

[Text] Yesterday, South African President F.W. de Klerk held crisis talks with the leader of the Inkatha movement, Chief Buthelezi. Higher on the agenda was the problem of traditional weapons carried by Zulus, many of whom are Inkatha supporters. The African National Congress has told the government to ban the carrying of all weapons, including spears, or they would break off peace talks. Well, after yesterday's talks, the speculation is that the government will ban spears. Fergal Keane spoke to the ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela and asked him how he reacted.

[Begin recording] [Mandela] I welcome that development because if press reports are correct, the banning of assegais and sticks will reduce the level of violence in the country. But we don't agree that these weapons should be banned only in the so-called unrest areas. They must be banned throughout the country. What is more important is not just that [words indistinct]. The government must make sure that the ban is actually put into practice, it is enforced by the security forces. Our fear is that this may remain a paper decision without enforcement. We hope they will do so.

[Keane] So, it is not enough for you yet to resume talks with the government? They have not yet done enough?

[Mandela] No, we are talking to them about a set of demands that we have sent in. But there is no question of us talking to the government about the all-party conference and about the future constitution until they comply with each and every one of those demands. [end recording]

Azapo Welcomes ANC Suspension of Talks

MB2105154491 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1457 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Johannesburg May 21 SAPA—The Azanian People's Organisation on Tuesday welcomed the decision by the African National Congress [ANC] to suspend constitutional talks with the government.

Azapo's publicity secretary Mr Strini Moodley said in a statement to SAPA the organisation was, however, not entirely satisfied that the ANC still wanted to maintain other types of talks and ties with the government while the violence continued and allegations against members of the security forces persisted.

The organisation urged the ANC and its followers to urgently form a united front and expressed disappointment that its scheduled May 16 meeting with the ANC towards this end had not materialised.

Azapo would, however, make fresh efforts to meet the ANC as soon as possible, Mr Moodley said.

Azapo also welcomed the ANC's support of their call to establish a national code of conduct which would bind all parties.

They suggested a programme of action to end the violence within the community which would involve the establishment of joint monitoring and disciplinary committees and political education.

Azapo urged church leaders "who have been shuttling between" President F. W. de Klerk, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Mr Nelson Mandela "in efforts to try and save the negotiations" to urgently consult them and other liberation movements.

"It is in the best interests of the church that it understand its own responsibility not only to preach non-sectarianism, but also be seen to be practicing it," Mr Moodley concluded.

ANC Spokesman: Resumption of Talks 'Possible'

MB2105182891 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1800 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] At the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] in Johannesburg this afternoon the ANC [African National Congress] has clarified its position on participation in talks aimed at bringing an end to violence.

[Begin video recording] [ANC spokesman Dr. Pallo Jordan] We would prefer a conference called by a neutral party, and we are all for a conference which is going to be convened by an ecumenical group of religious leaders, including Christian leaders, Jewish leaders, Muslim leaders, Hindu leaders, et cetera, in this country. A meeting of that character we would be more than willing to attend. [end recording]

Dr. Jordan said the meeting yesterday between the state president and Inkatha which resulted in the banning of spears in unrest areas had been a step in the right direction.

[Begin recording] [Jordan] Yes, it is a step forward. It is a step in the right direction, and it had been an issue around which the talks between the state president and our deputy president, Comrade Mandela, had become deadlocked. Now, since that item has now been removed, the deadlock presumably is broken. So now it is possible for Comrade Mandela to reopen discussions...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] Did you say it's now possible?

[Jordan] It's possible. It doesn't mean it's likely, or that it's probable. It is possible for him to reopen discussions

with State President de Klerk about the remaining issues in our open letter. As we indicated in our press conference over the weekend, we are continuing those discussions with the state president and the South African Government about the other issues in our open letter. Those discussions have not been broken off. [end recording]

Winnie Mandela Arrested Obstructing Traffic

MB2205060691 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0539 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Johannesburg May 22 SAPA—Winnie Mandela, wife of ANC [African National Congress] Deputy President Nelson Mandela, was arrested shortly after dawn in Johannesburg city centre on Wednesday for obstructing the traffic, police said. Witwatersrand police spokesman Capt Eugene Opperman said Mrs Mandela and about 30 women had been arrested while protesting at the Rissik and Market Streets intersection.

Police who conducted the arrest cut loose a heavy chain apparently used by the protesting women to stop early city traffic. "They were obstructing the traffic... uniform and traffic police had no choice other than to arrest them," Capt Opperman said.

The women and Mrs Mandela, "more specifically", resisted arrest. Mrs Mandela and the other women were taken to Johannesburg Police Headquarters John Vorster Square, where a further 70 protestors had gathered in the street outside.

Capt Opperman said police had video recorded the arrest at 6.29AM. He expected all the protestors to make a brief appearance in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on Wednesday morning. Police were "investigating" the group of protestors at Vorster Square. "Hopefully we can resolve the problem peacefully," he said.

Mrs Mandela, the chairperson of the ANC Women's League for the Witwatersrand region, was last week sentenced in the Rand Supreme Court to six years imprisonment after being found guilty on charges of kidnap and accessory to assault.

Thatcher Discusses Democracy, Economic Growth

MB2105122691 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1150 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Johannesburg May 21 SAPA—There is no reason that the creation of a fully democratic nation needs to imperil the country's economy, former British Premier Mrs Margaret Thatcher said in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

Mrs Thatcher, on a private visit in South Africa, addressed a joint meeting of the South Africa [SA] Foundation, SA Chamber of Commerce, Institute of Directors, Urban Foundation and the SA Institute of International Affairs.

In a prepared address issued to SAPA, she painted a grim picture of the African Continent's economic failure, but added she believed South Africa's economy could be an increasingly powerful engine for the entire continent's recovery.

Africa, which accounted for three per cent of world trade in 1960, according to Mrs Thatcher, now contributed only one and a half per cent—and some 27 million Africans faced starvation.

Notable exceptions were Kenya, Botswana and Malawi, which stood out as African success stories. Mrs Thatcher contributed this to the "more or less free enterprise economic policies their governments are pursuing".

The contrast between the economic performance of South Africa and that of Africa as a whole since independence had been stark, said Mrs Thatcher.

"Until the problems of recent years, South Africa's economic growth was able to provide for investment in the country's infrastructure and industries unmatched elsewhere in Africa. It provided jobs for hundreds of thousands of workers from surrounding countries too."

The dark side of South Africa's economic progress was, however, that the benefits are far too narrowly spread, and that apartheid itself has been a kind of collectivism which stopped free movement of labour, curtailed property rights and spawned a host of regulations.

Only by free enterprise capitalism within a framework of law, could South Africa's divisions be healed and her difficulties overcome.

Economic principles for the new South Africa would include a free enterprise system; avoidance of more nationalisation; privatisation of as many industries and businesses as possible; resistance to bureaucrats' demands for controls and subsidies; opposition to protectionism; and resistance to all calls to redistribute wealth as a means of eradicating poverty.

Mrs Thatcher said while "wrongs which cry out for immediate action should be rectified... also remember that it is only countries which create wealth and economies which grow that can support higher living standards for both rich and poor".

South Africa's economy could be an increasingly powerful engine of African economy, and it was now essential that investment should flow into the country.

"Since 1985, lack of foreign investment and loans has held back South Africa's economy.

"It is a tribute to the strength of that economy that it is in as good a shape as it is in today. But the expectations which so many people have of tackling hunger, ignorance and poverty can only be satisfied if the South African economy increases its rate of growth.

"This it will not do unless international business and finance provide the resources. We must show all South Africans that free enterprise works to the benefit of all."

Mrs Thatcher concluded: "South Africa is coming out into the sunlight to rejoin the world. And the international community must warmly welcome her".

Addresses Zulus in Ulundi Speech

MB2105180891 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1754 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Ulundi May 21 SAPA—Investment would flow back into South Africa only once a genuinely democratic constitution, backed by a free market economy and sensible economic policies, was achieved, former British premier Margaret Thatcher said in Ulundi on Tuesday.

Addressing a banquet in her honour in the town, the seat of KwaZulu's legislative assembly, Mrs Thatcher said there was "no way out, except through negotiations". "I have no sympathy whatever for those who want to stop the world and get off and create the illusion that it is possible to go back to the days of Dr Verwoerd."

Speaking on township violence, Mrs Thatcher said there was no precedent for violence on the scale presently experienced in South Africa. The violence was a discredit to black South African society.

She said from her discussions with state President F. W. de Klerk, she had no doubt he was "desperately anxious" to end the carnage.

"All leaders have to shoulder the responsibility. They must give a lead to their supporters. A concerted effort by the black political leaders also is required at every level and in the townships themselves to set the example of peace."

Addressing Inkatha leader and KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Mrs Thatcher said: "I know you and Mr Mandela want peace. You and your colleagues have made an extraordinary contribution, not only in your resistance to apartheid, but also in the way you have refused to adopt that left-wing demagogic rhetoric which wins cheers and loses investment."

She commended Chief Buthelezi for "refusing the sham of independence" by fighting against KwaZulu's "independence". Earlier, Mrs Thatcher touched down at Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi airport in Ulundi to cheers from several thousand Zulus.

KwaZulu's chief traffic officer, Mr H. Beetge, said traffic police estimated over 20,000 people had arrived at the airport, but other estimates put the figure closer to 10,000. Most were pupils carrying banners stating: "Welcome sanctions buster", and "Sanctions were never a solution". There was very little sign of "cultural weapons" as few Zulus brandished spears and sticks.

Mr Thatcher, husband Sir Denis, and her entourage were greeted by Chief Buthelezi and Zulu King Goodwill

Zwelithini on the airstrip. Both were dressed in traditional Zulu attire, sporting shields and assegais. The former British prime minister was treated to spectacular Zulu traditional dances before being addressed by Chief Buthelezi. He lavishly praised her as the "doyen of democracy", and "peacemaker of the century". "I speak for the vast, vast majority of black South Africans as I warmly welcome you to this country," the Inkatha leader said. He presented Mrs Thatcher with a scroll containing a eulogy in her honour.

In her address at the airport, Mrs Thatcher said Zulus and Britons had shared a relationship which had started in conflict and ended in friendship. This was a lesson all South Africans could learn from, she added. Mrs Thatcher laid a wreath at Ulundi's war memorial before attending the banquet later on Tuesday night.

22 May Press Review on Current Issues, Problems
MB2205103091

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

"Those who accuse the ANC [African National Congress] of mere bloody-mindedness in refusing to attend President de Klerk's conference on violence should consider the basic negotiating mistake that prompted the boycott," says the page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 22 May. "A simple principle was illuminated on this page yesterday by Ron Kraybill, director of the Training Centre for Intergroup Studies in Cape Town. It is this: in the lead-up to negotiations—especially between suspicious parties—process is everything. How the protagonists are lured to the negotiating table is as important as what happens when they get there. Judged by that yardstick, President de Klerk made two elementary negotiating errors. He called the conference unilaterally and without consultation. And he virtually declared himself the referee, though clearly, in the eyes of other parties, he is a participant, even an 'accused'. It was an invitation to breakdown. Talks-about-talks is not a quirky diplomatic activity but an essential preliminary phase. That said, the ANC is being too precious in balking now; after all, it virtually invited the president's initiative when it called on him to stop the violence. We have said before that the ANC should swallow its pride and attend. We say it again. The issue is too important to be bedevilled, especially by tactical false steps," concludes the editorial.

SOWETAN

De Klerk Journey to Ulundi 'Important Symbol'—"The meeting this week between the Zulu king, the Inkatha Freedom Party and President F.W. de Klerk was an important step towards ending the violence which plagues us all," begins the page eight editorial in Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 22 May. "It was also an important symbol that De Klerk journeyed to Ulundi for the meeting." "It was also, *SOWETAN* hopes, evidence that De Klerk is beginning to understand just how crucial this issue of 'traditional weapons'—on all sides of the political spectrum—is." "It is of course possible that there are elements among his own people, particularly the security forces, who do not want peace. But there is no evidence to date that De Klerk himself is not sincere.... [He] should be given the benefit of the doubt." "Every avenue which leads to peace ought to be explored. This trip to Ulundi, and the cautiously encouraging signs which came out of it, was one such avenue."

DIE REPUBLIKEIN

Namibia Should Adapt to Changes Taking Place in RSA—"Namibia should take note of exactly what developments are taking place in the world and what the consequences will be for the country; actually, more than this is necessary," notes a page 4 editorial in the Windhoek *DIE REPUBLIKEIN* in Afrikaans on 15 May. "We should be able to foresee what developments will take place and then we should be prepared to adapt if we wish to share the benefits. Of utmost importance, we have to be aware of important changes taking place in relations between South Africa and the other African countries. These relations have increased at a very fast rate over the past year compared to former years. The antagonistic attitude toward South Africa is making way for dialogue, cooperation and the search for mutual advantages. Information released last week that has come to the notice of the South African media includes the following: Over the past year official delegations of the Republic of South Africa were received in no fewer than 21 countries outside southern Africa. Since the beginning of the year 21 visits were made to South Africa by 12 African countries." "Certain questions arise for Namibia with reference to these developments: Should Namibia find itself inside or outside these tendencies? Can the country afford to be misled by only one party in the process of negotiations?" "One fact that must be admitted is that South Africa has much more to offer Africa than Namibia has, and South Africa is also more important to Africa than Namibia is. Namibia is still in a unique position, however, to play a leading role, or at least, to assist in playing a leading role in the formation of a more prosperous region, rather than merely being a spectator in this rapidly changing process."

Mozambique

Italians Present New Peace Proposal in Rome

MB2105195391 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] The peace talks between the Mozambican Government and rebels have reached an impasse because of new proposals presented by Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance]. Italian mediators said today that last week they presented a new peace proposal which is satisfactory to both parties. The new proposal provides for the holding of [words indistinct] round of talks, open debate on political and military issues, the cease-fire, and the setting of a date for general elections in Mozambique. Meanwhile, information just received denies that there is a South African and U.S. presence at the Rome peace talks to help the negotiators overcome differences.

Zimbabwe

'Official Sources' Comment on Mengistu Exile

MB2105174491 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1654 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Harare May 21 SAPA—Signs were increasing late on Tuesday that former Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam would seek sanctuary in Harare. Official sources in Harare indicated to a SAPA correspondent that they were expecting him to apply for permission to live in Zimbabwe, but would not say if he had formally made a request.

Sources also said President Robert Mugabe was due to leave Harare on a private visit to London late Tuesday, but had cancelled his trip. It was speculated he had done so to be present when the fleeing ex-dictator arrived.

It was also confirmed that Mengistu's wife, Web-Anchi Beshaw, had arrived from Addis Ababa earlier in the day on a scheduled Ethiopian Airlines flight. She was accompanied by the Ethiopian ambassador to Zimbabwe, Asrat Wolde, who is also an uncle of Mengistu.

Beshaw originally came to Harare about two months ago in what observers interpreted as a flight from the growing danger of a successful rebel advance on Addis Ababa, and enrolled two sons in a private school here. She returned to Harare on Tuesday on a flight that appears to have departed almost simultaneously with her husband's from Addis.

Mugabe and Mengistu are known to have a close relationship, going back to when the Zimbabwean was a guerilla leader fighting the minority Rhodesian government.

Observers cite the sudden trip Mugabe took to Addis Ababa during a crucial phase of the Lancaster House constitutional talks in December, 1979, apparently for advice from Mengistu and to receive promises of military backing for his guerilla army.

Mugabe was also the guest of honour at Ethiopia's extravagant independence commemorations in 1985, held while millions of Ethiopians starved in the country's worst drought. Very few other African leaders attended. The two men are understood to share a passion for theoretical Marxism, although Mugabe has done little to implement the concept.

Mengistu Arrives in Harare 21 May

MB2205045291 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0326 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Harare May 22 SAPA—A large four-engined jet aircraft arrived in Harare shortly after midnight on Tuesday, bringing fugitive Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile-Mariam to sanctuary in Zimbabwe, airport officials confirmed.

Journalists waiting at Harare airport were prevented from seeing the freshly-deposed Ethiopian leader when they were locked by security officials inside the terminal building soon after the aircraft touched down.

The security personnel refused to answer questions but airport staff confided in the press: "It is Mr Mengistu."

Local journalists who were detained in a sealed room in the VIP section of the airport said they were also told by airport and government staff that Mengistu had arrived.

They said they had been told that he was in green military fatigues and was about to "burst into tears."

Speculation was rife that Mengistu, whose bloody 14-year career as president was ended on Tuesday [21 May] with an announcement on Ethiopian radio, would seek refuge in Zimbabwe as an old friend of President Robert Mugabe.

Their relationship dates back to when Mr Mugabe was a guerilla leader fighting the Rhodesian Government, and was supplied with arms and given military training by Ethiopia.

Zimbabwean Government officials approached for comment on Tuesday refused to say whether Mengistu had asked for help, but Ethiopian Ambassador Asrat Wolde unexpectedly arrived at Harare airport on Tuesday night claiming he had come to see off Mr Mugabe, who was leaving for London.

At 11.40PM journalists waiting at the airport saw an aircraft approach and land, but were prevented from watching passengers disembark by a Central Intelligence Organisation [CIO] officer who ushered the media people inside the terminal building and locked the doors.

Shortly after midnight, the Ethiopian Embassy's black Mercedes was seen speeding down a side exit from the airport, and followed by a station wagon.

The doors were unlocked soon afterwards and the journalists were permitted to leave.

On Tuesday afternoon journalists at the airport saw Mr Wolde, who is also an uncle to Mengistu, arrive on a scheduled flight from Addis Ababa with Web-Anchi Beshaw, Mengistu's wife.

Press photographers took pictures of her, but were briefly detained by CIO men who confiscated their film.

Government Reportedly Denies Arrival

*AB2205083291 Paris AFP in English 0811 GMT
22 May 91*

[Text] Harare, May 22 (AFP)—Mystery shrouded the whereabouts of former Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam Wednesday as the Zimbabwe Government denied reports that he had arrived in Harare during the night. A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "No, he is not in the country. That I can confirm."

However, eyewitnesses at Harare Airport during the night spoke of the arrival of a large jet shortly after midnight amid tight security. And the local Herald newspaper reported Wednesday that Colonel Mengistu's wife arrived in Zimbabwean capital on a scheduled flight from Addis Ababa earlier Tuesday accompanied by a three-year-old daughter. The paper said it was believed she would seek political asylum in the country, and that unconfirmed reports said at least two of her other children were already in Zimbabwe.

Colonel Mengistu, who resigned and fled the country Tuesday, is reported to have bought a farm in Zimbabwe several months ago.

The Ethiopian strongman, who had ruled his famine-plagued East African country since seizing power in 1977, is reported to have developed a close friendship with Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe. He flew first to Nairobi on Tuesday in the face of a rebel advance on his capital, Addis Ababa. He was reported to have made the trip in a twin-engined Buffalo aircraft of the Ethiopian Airlines accompanied by about a dozen people. He is believed to have held talks at Nairobi State House with President Daniel arap Moi and Foreign Ministry officials.

Opposition Official Discusses Weekend Arrests

*MB2205070891 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 21 May 91*

[Telephone interview with Patrick Kombayi, national organizing secretary of the Zimbabwe Unity Movement by Lucy Hannon; date not given—from the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] A total of 130 members of the opposition Zimbabwe Unity Movement, ZUM, were arrested at the weekend at a hotel in the town of Gweru, apparently for holding an illegal meeting. The ZUM members have since been released and are angry about their arrests. Lucy Hannon spoke to Patrick Kombayi, national organizing secretary of ZUM who is among those arrested. On the line to Gweru she asked him what had happened:

[Begin recording] [Kombayi] Well, we were picked up by the police and thrown into the truck, and then we were detained at Wha Wha detention camp. We continued with our same meeting in the prison, a ZUM interprovincial meeting. A number of people were beaten. I ended up being in hospital, and a professor was admitted in (Chirunga) Hospital. The ladies we had in the meeting were taken at night to (Chirunga) prison. We were tortured, beaten up and, you know, all sorts of things.

[Hannon] And are the police continuing to press charges? Do you expect to be answering charges in court?

[Kombayi] No. What they did was yesterday afternoon they just came back to pick us from the cells and they said: The attorney general said there was no charge. You can now go.

[Hannon] Why have you decided to sue the government?

[Kombayi] We have decided to sue the government because we think it was unlawful detention.

[Hannon] If you say the police didn't really have any reason to arrest you in the first place, why do you think you were picked up?

[Kombayi] The ruling party, the ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union—Patriotic Front], had also their meeting. So, the reason behind was to try and disturb our meeting because they had failed to drag enough people where they were having their meeting. So, they just disturbed our meeting so that, you know, they could probably persuade the people toward attending their meeting.

[Hannon] So, your meeting was like a rally.

[Kombayi] No, it was in a hotel. We were assembled in a hall in a hotel, and they went in and broke all the doors. We had all our delegates with cards, prepared properly, and then the police just came in, pulling everybody out and throwing them in a truck. It's not a rally. It was an executive interprovincial meeting. [end recording]

Guinea

Interior Minister Announces Ban on Meetings

*AB2105175091 Dakar PANA in English
0946 GMT 21 May 91*

[Text] Dakar, 21 May (PANA)—The Guinean minister of interior, Alhassane Conde, has announced a ban of meetings and street demonstrations in the country except those authorised by the government, reports reaching PANA said on Tuesday. Conde said in an interview on the national radio broadcast on Monday that no political party had as yet been recognised in Guinea adding that as such, no political party had the right to organise any form of meeting whatsoever.

He said no political party will be recognised before the end of 1991 indicating however, that three political parties had submitted their papers for registrations. The minister criticised those who exploit minor social problems to disturb public order.

Since May, Guinea has witnessed a spate of strikers organised by workers, teachers and students to back their demands for salary increases and the restoration of democracy in the West African country.

Ivory Coast

FPI Demands Government's 'Immediate' Resignation

*AB2105142491 Paris AFP in French
1128 GMT 21 May 91*

[Excerpt] Abidjan 21 May (AFP)—The Ivorian Popular Front [FPI], the main opposition party in the Ivory Coast, today demanded the "immediate and unconditional resignation" of the government and the setting up of a transitional government following Army intervention at a hall residence of Abidjan University on Friday, 17 May. In a communique presented to AFP, Mr. Laurent Gbagbo's party also demanded the "creation of an independent commission of inquiry" to shed light on the military intervention.

The FPI asserted that "according to various witness accounts," Defense Minister Leon Konan Koffi, Interior Minister Emile Constant Bombet, and the chief of Army staff, Colonel Robert Guei, "led the operation of repression."

"Several students were injured," two of them very seriously, and some "female students were raped," the FPI further stated. "Our Army has become an Army of vandals and thieves," the communique stated. According to "students and various other sources at least two students died," the communique added. The FPI is challenging the ruling Democratic Party of Ivory Coast to "ask all students to return to the university halls and to proceed with a roll call by an independent commission to establish proof of the physical presence of all the students."

The Ivorian authorities on Saturday, 18 May "challenged people to name one of the alleged victims." [passage omitted]

Mali

Six Reportedly Killed in Army-Rebel Clashes

AB2105144091 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 2000 GMT 20 May 91

[Communique issued by the Ministry of National Defense and Internal Security in Bamako on 20 May]

[Text] Early on 20 May 1991, at about 0500, a rebel group attacked the locality of Goundam, in the Timbuktu Region. The Armed Forces repelled the attack with the assistance of the population. On Saturday, 18 May 1991, a group of armed bandits attacked the district of Labbezanga. Some of them were dressed in military uniforms and others in plain clothes. The death toll stands at six and [words indistinct]. An Army patrol unit pursued the rebels and clashed with them (?2) km from the locality of Fafa, killing two rebels and recovering weapons and sums of money.

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23 May 1991

